

## ***2005 Press Releases***

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# October 2005

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Agreement  
Removes and Bars  
Predators' Chat  
Rooms

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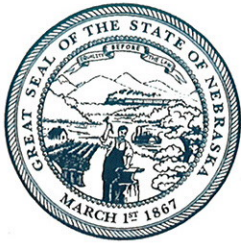
AG Announces  
Sentence for  
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Media  
Advisory: AG  
to Give  
Away Husker Tickets  
at Clinton  
Elementary

AG Urges  
Families to  
Plan Safe  
Trick or Treating  
Routes to Avoid Homes  
of Sexual Predators

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STATE OF NEBRASKA  
**Office of the Attorney General**

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**JON BRUNING**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 28, 2005, 4:40 p.m. CDT

CONTACT:  
Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

## **Bruning Urges Families to Plan Safe Trick-or-Treat Routes this Halloween to Avoid Homes of Sexual Predators**

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning today urged Nebraskans to plan safe trick or treat routes for their children this Halloween by going online to learn if sex predators are living in their neighborhoods.

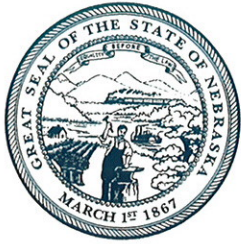
Bruning said, "Before you allow your children to venture out this Halloween, get to know your neighbors. It only takes a few minutes to log onto the state's Sex Offender Registry Web site to see if convicted sex offenders are living in your area. With a little advance work, we can ensure that our children stay safe on Halloween."

Bruning also urged parents to check their children's candy for tampering when they return home from trick-or-treating.

Nebraskans can visit the state's Sex Offender Registry Web site at <http://www.nsp.state.ne.us/sor/>. The site is administered by the Nebraska State Patrol.

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*An audio clip featuring comments from Attorney General Bruning is available at [http://www.ago.state.ne.us/content/sound\\_bits.html](http://www.ago.state.ne.us/content/sound_bits.html).*



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**JON BRUNING**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 26, 2005, 3:05 p.m. CDT

CONTACT:  
Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

## **Bruning Announces Sentence in Dundy County Meth Lab Case**

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning announced today that Danil K. Johnson of Benkelman has been sentenced to 10-15 years in prison for the unlawful manufacture of methamphetamine, a Class III felony, by Dundy County District Court Judge John Batershell. Johnson, 36, plead no contest and was convicted of the charge on Sept. 7, 2005.

Attorney General Bruning said, "Every time we put a methamphetamine manufacturer behind bars, we come one step closer to stemming the tide of methamphetamine in our communities. The Nebraska Department of Justice will continue to do everything in our power to bring the criminals who make this deadly drug to justice."

Johnson was arrested for manufacturing meth on April 4, 2005 after Dundy County Sheriff's Office deputies went to his residence regarding a loose dog complaint. When officers arrived at Johnson's home, which is less than 1,000 feet from a school, they noticed smoke and a strange smell coming from the garage.

Johnson and his 24-year-old stepson Zach Luttrell came out of the garage at the officer's request, padlocking the door behind them. When questioned about the smoke and odor, Johnson said he was cooking a turkey in a wood-burning stove. He later said he was experimenting with fireworks and chemicals to make tear gas and other substances, including gun powder.

Once Johnson had been taken into custody, officers found coffee filters in his pockets that contained a white, powdery substance which was later determined to be methamphetamine. Johnson eventually agreed to a search of the garage where officers found a functioning meth lab.

Luttrell, who is visually impaired, agreed to receive a portion of the meth being cooked by Johnson for his services as a sentry. He was convicted of attempted possession of methamphetamine, a Class I misdemeanor. He was sentenced to one year probation and is required to attend drug and alcohol counseling.

The case was handled by Assistant Attorney General Corey O'Brien.

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*An audio clip featuring comments from Attorney General Bruning is available at*  
[http://www.ago.state.ne.us/content/sound\\_bits.html](http://www.ago.state.ne.us/content/sound_bits.html).



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**JON BRUNING**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

MEDIA ADVISORY  
October 24, 2005 10:25 a.m. CT

CONTACT:  
Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

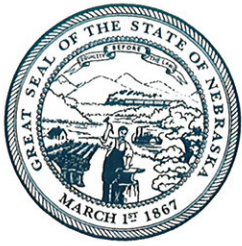
**\*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\***

**Attorney General Bruning to Give Away  
Husker Tickets at Clinton Elementary at  
2:30 p.m. CT TODAY**

Attorney General Jon Bruning will give away two Husker football tickets to one fourth or fifth grade student for this weekend's game against the University of Oklahoma at 2:30 p.m. CT today, Monday, Oct. 24 during an assembly at Clinton Elementary School, 1520 N. 29<sup>th</sup> St., in Lincoln.

Approximately 200 students will be on hand to watch the random drawing in the school cafeteria.

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**JON BRUNING**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 18, 2005, 4:20 p.m. CDT

CONTACT:  
Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

## **Bruning Announces Sentence for Former Clarks Police Officer**

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning announced today that former Village of Clarks Police Officer Ron Jones will serve one year in prison for his crimes.

Jones was convicted of one count of criminal mischief, a Class I misdemeanor, and one count of theft by unlawful taking, a Class II misdemeanor, in August. He was sentenced to one year in prison on the criminal mischief charge and six months in prison on the theft by unlawful taking charge. The sentences will be served concurrently.

Jones was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$350 to the victims in the case. As a certified law enforcement officer, he will likely be decertified by the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center.

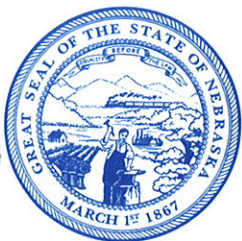
Bruning said, "The law applies equally to everyone. Law enforcement officers who hold the public trust must be held accountable."

The charges against Jones stem from allegations that he unjustifiably fired his .22 caliber rifle into the radiator of a vehicle in September 2003. Jones and the owner of the truck had engaged in a verbal altercation just moments prior to the shooting. And in December 2003, Jones stole four bottles of alcohol booked as evidence in an ongoing criminal matter and distributed them as Christmas gifts to employees and board members of the Village of Clarks.

Jones is no longer serving as a law enforcement officer.

The case was handled by Assistant Attorney General Corey O'Brien.

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**JON BRUNING**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 12, 2005, 9:00 a.m. CT

CONTACT:  
Holley Bolen, 402-471-3888

**AGREEMENT REMOVES AND BARS PREDATORS' CHAT ROOMS**  
**Yahoo! Implements Sweeping Reforms to Protect Children**

Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning and New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer today announced an agreement that will help prevent children from getting involved in dangerous chat room activities over the Internet.

Under the agreement, one of the nation's leading Internet Service Providers, Yahoo! has removed and barred the posting of user-created chat rooms with names that promoted sex between minors and adults.

The agreement is the first to institute system-wide controls over categories of chat rooms that are likely to be frequented by child predators.

"Millions of people use the Internet every day, and many of those are children," said Attorney General Bruning. "Because of this agreement Yahoo! chat rooms are a safer place today than ever before, meaning our children are safer online and predators have fewer opportunities to prey on them."

"We need to be vigilant to protect our children," Spitzer said. "It is imperative that parents, industry, prosecutors and lawmakers all work together to identify and address possible threats, and that we teach our children to protect themselves from those who would do them harm."

Nebraska and New York both commenced investigations earlier this year after receiving tips that children had unfettered access to adult chat rooms. As a result of discussions with the Attorneys General, Yahoo! removed or barred the posting of approximately 70,000 user-created chat rooms in June 2005. The names of these chat rooms suggested they facilitated criminal conduct, many promoting sex between adults and minors.

Among the numerous illicit chat rooms removed were those with labels such as "girls13 & up for much older men," "8-12 yo girls for older man," and "teen girls for older fat men." Many of these were located within the "Schools and Education" and "Teen" chat categories. Within these rooms, an investigator found numerous instances of the solicitation of minors for sexual acts. Over one single 25-minute span, for instance, the investigator, posing as a 14-year-old girl, received 35 personal messages of a sexual nature, apparently from adults. Such messages can lead to meetings between vulnerable adolescents and sexual predators.

(MORE)

The agreement institutes the following measures:

- Yahoo! must pre-screen all user-created chat room names, so that any chat room name encouraging sex acts between adults and minors will not be posted;
- In the event Yahoo! becomes aware of any such chat room, despite these controls, it must purge the room from its site within 24 hours;
- Yahoo! will make it easier to report any threats to child safety, give priority to such complaints, and designate specific employees to do so;
- Yahoo! will develop education materials and feature them on the Yahoo! network, promoting the safe use of chat rooms;

Additionally, Yahoo! will pay \$1,050,000 to the State of Nebraska to educate parents and kids about Internet dangers and \$175,000 to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) for their efforts in New York.

Bruning and Spitzer commended Yahoo! for its cooperation and recognition of the problems arising in its chat rooms.

Scott Christensen of the Nebraska State Patrol provided technical expertise during the development of the case. The matter was handled by Assistant Attorneys General Corey O'Brien and Jeff Lux and Investigators Charlie Venditte, Bill Black, and Mark Moraczewski, under the direction of Don Kleine, Chief of the Criminal Bureau.

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*An audio clip featuring comments from Attorney General Bruning will be available tomorrow after the press conference at [http://www.ago.state.ne.us/content/sound\\_bits.html](http://www.ago.state.ne.us/content/sound_bits.html)*



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**JON BRUNING**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Contact: Holley Bolen  
402-471-3888

For Planning Purposes:  
October 11, 2005

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**for**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2005**

Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning and New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer will hold a news conference in New York to discuss a groundbreaking agreement that will help protect children from Internet predators.

**Date: October 12**

**Time: 10:00 a.m. Eastern (9:00 a.m. Central)**

**Location: Office of New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, 25<sup>th</sup> Floor  
120 Broadway, between Cedar and Pine streets  
Nassau Street entrance  
Manhattan, New York**

**There will be a brief conference call immediately following the news conference at approximately 10:45 a.m. Eastern, 9:45 a.m. Central. To participate in the call: dial 877-300-7635 and enter conference id number 1423049.**

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